



Quarantine Housing Page 2



Student Senate Page 6

# Coronavirus cases reported on campus

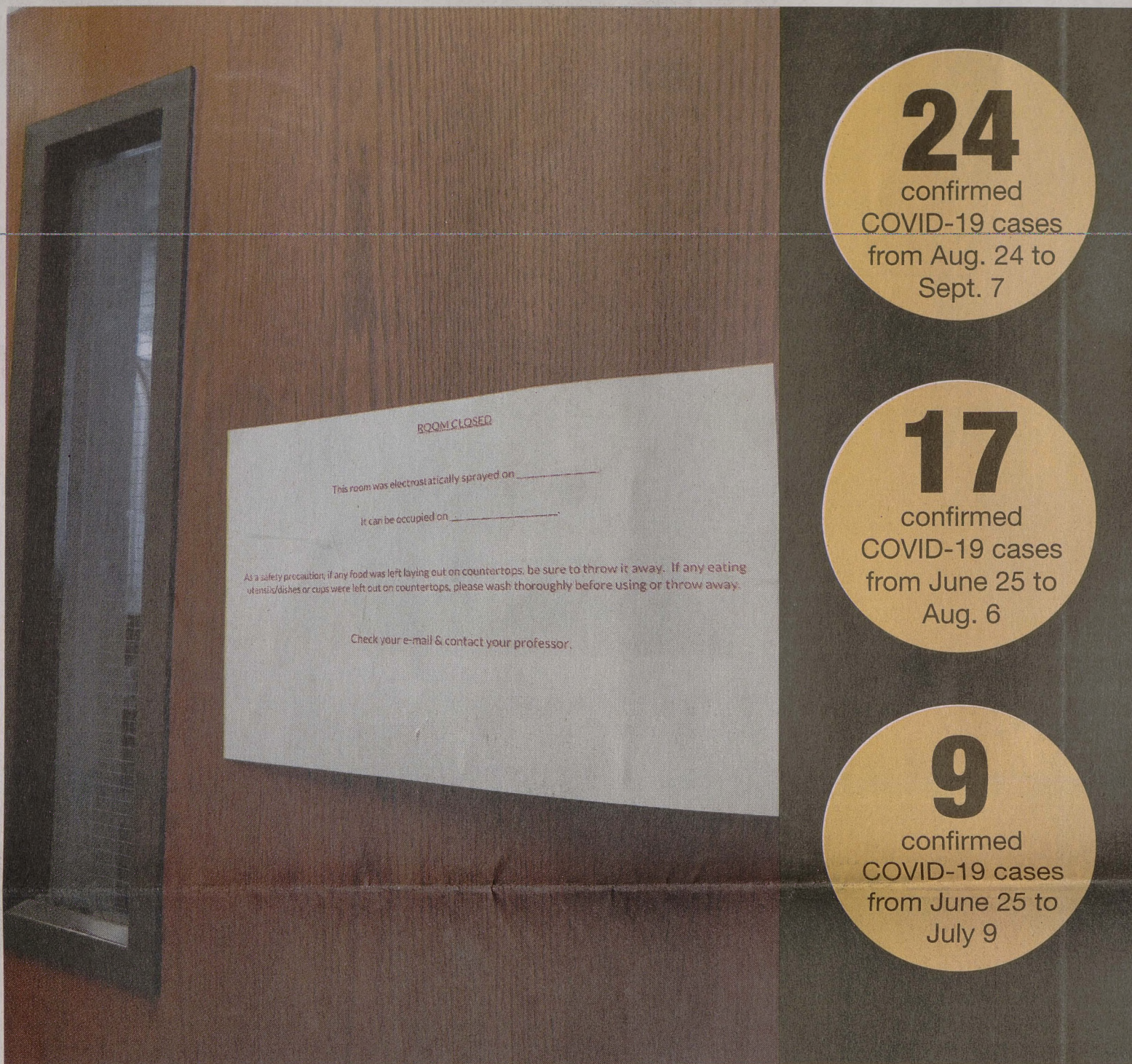


Photo and graphic by Madison Heiser

## Clery Reports detail case counts during first two weeks

By Alanah Woodard, Mary Mone and Sorayda Rivera

From the beginning of the fall semester until Monday, Sept. 7, there have been 24 confirmed COVID-19 cases on the Tyler Junior College campus, compared to nine cases during the first two weeks after case reporting began in the summer. There

were 17 total cases reported from June 25 to the end of the summer term on Aug. 6. Between the end of the summer term and the beginning of the fall term on Aug. 24, there were five reported cases. These reports are public under the Jeanne Clery Act and are posted on [tjc.edu/campuspolice/reports](http://tjc.edu/campuspolice/reports). The Clery Reports state when a confirmed case is reported all individuals

who came in contact with the infected person are informed and given next-step protocols.

Also, after a COVID-19 case is reported, the classrooms the individual attended are sanitized. Signs are posted outside the classroom doors saying when the room was electrostatically sprayed and when it can be occupied again. Students are

also encouraged to check their email and contact their professor.

The increase of COVID-19 cases on campus in the fall semester may be due in part to an increase of in-person classes available on campus. According to data from Rebecca Sanders, director of public affairs and media relations, TJC offered 171

Coronavirus on Page 3

## Textbook costs pose challenge for students, faculty

By Madison Heiser  
Editor-in-Chief

One essential supply nearly every college student must purchase is textbooks. In an era of increasingly digitized media, textbooks are becoming more available in the form of ebooks and bundles requiring single-use access codes. Considering countless students pay for books and supplies out-of-pocket, many pose the question: why are textbooks so expensive, and how can students minimize the cost?

Though tuition at community and junior colleges is typically less expensive than four-year colleges, two-year students spend more money on general out-of-pocket expenses. According to CollegeBoard, an in-district student at a public two-year institution spends an average of \$1,440 per year on books and supplies, compared to \$1,240 per year at both private and public four-year institutions. Tyler Junior College estimates a student's average cost of books and supplies

at \$1,800 per year.

TJC freshman Jayla Black shared her thoughts about textbook costs.

"I spent almost \$500 on four books. It's harder for those on financial aid, like with loans. I still had to pay for classes," Black said.

Some students have had little to no issues purchasing textbooks this semester.

"My experience purchasing textbooks this year has been really good," said Genesis Baze, a freshman at TJC. "I don't think there is anything unfair about textbook prices."

According to Vox, a general interest news site, four textbook publishers control more than 80% of the market: Pearson, Cengage, Wiley and McGraw-Hill. Because of the lack of competition among textbook publishers, these major companies can inflate prices with the understanding that their books are the only ones available to students. Additionally, in the current digital age, these publishers are manufacturing single-use access codes for ebooks and digital content that prevent

students from buying used books. Some professors require these access codes in their courses for the convenience of digital content.

"I feel like half the stuff they sell shouldn't be so expensive," Black said. "Some people are really short on money, especially because of COVID. Now's a time more than ever to drop the prices," Black said.

Many TJC students have expressed frustration with the campus bookstore's online resources. Some books are listed in students' required course materials online, but professors do not require those books in their courses.

"I think TJC could do a better job of letting you know which books you need," Baze said.

TJC Bookstore Manager Karan Sustaire gave insight into how the bookstore determines textbook listings.

"We get the adoptions from the

Textbooks on Page 3

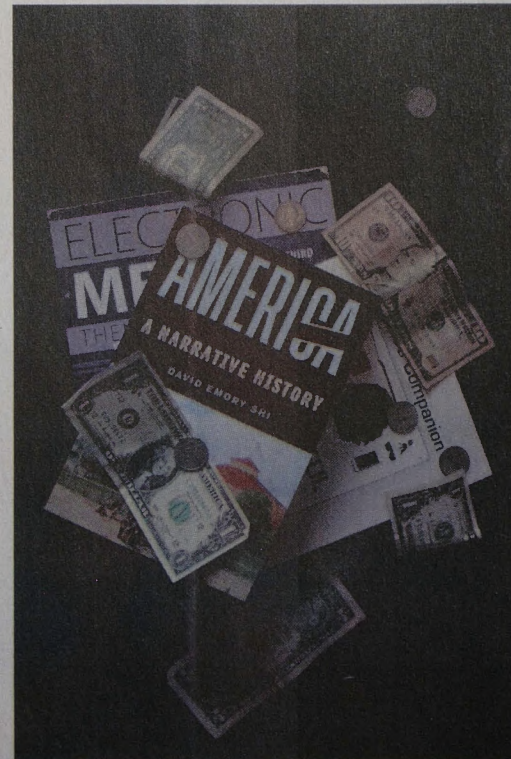


Photo by Chris Swann



[www.thedrumbeat.com](http://www.thedrumbeat.com)



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Questions or concerns? Email: [news@thedrumbeat.com](mailto:news@thedrumbeat.com) or call: 903-510-2299





## Employee Campaign raises over \$87,000

By Dax Davenport  
Staff Writer

Faculty and staff at Tyler Junior College have raised over \$87,000 during the 2020 TJC Employee Campaign.

Paul Prewitt, director of annual giving, oversees this campaign at TJC and was able to provide more information about this fundraising event.

"The Employee Campaign is a participation drive, every gift big or small counts, among faculty and staff at TJC," Prewitt said. "During these financially difficult times, we are thrilled to have raised more than \$87,000 for our students and the community."

According to Prewitt, faculty and staff have given more than \$36,000 toward scholarships and emergency student aid. Another \$41,000 has been designated for TJC programs or academic areas. Prewitt also said 28 students were awarded scholarships that had been funded by the Employee Campaign during the spring 2020 semester. TJC also gave \$10,000 to

local charities through the United Way of Smith County. According to the United Way of Smith County's website, they "strengthen our community as a whole by bringing together local companies, individuals, government and nonprofit agencies to tackle big issues." Their website elaborates that they support programs in four specific areas: education, health and wellness, financial stability, and crisis intervention.

The Employee Campaign has been making a difference in the community for more than 15 years.

Katherine Thompson, financial aid specialist, was selected as the grand prize winner for this campaign.

"I remember what it is like to be a struggling student, and I wanted to make sure I do my part to encourage and support our students," Thompson said. "To me, TJC is more than a college, it's family, so it just makes sense to contribute and support our college and community."

## Holley Hall in use as COVID housing

By Andrea Valdez  
Broadcast News Director

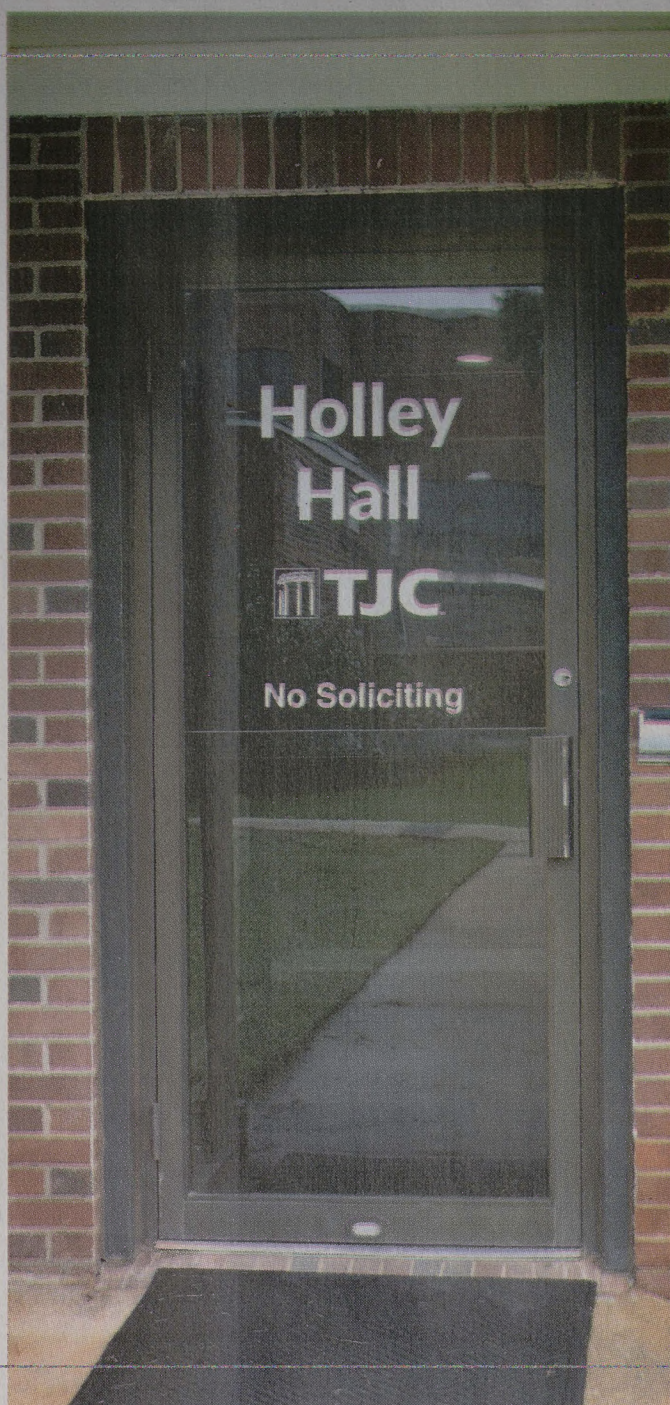


Photo by Cassidy Winborn

Holley Hall remains closed for normal residency as it is being used for quarantine purposes.

Tyler Junior College's Residential Life and Housing is following the college's safety protocols by taking precautions for students living on campus. Holley Hall, a residential hall located on campus, will be used for quarantine purposes.

"If a residential student has been exposed to COVID-19, they will be relocated to Holley Hall per the college's protocol for quarantine," said Rebecca Sanders, director of public affairs and media relations at TJC.

According to the Fall 2020 Plan for COVID-19 protocols, TJC will monitor symptoms of COVID-19 for those on campus by developing a reporting system to monitor students and employees who develop symptoms similar to those found with COVID-19.

"Our plan is for each student to have no more than one roommate. There will be daily cleaning of community bathrooms, and sanitation products will be provided to students. A second shift is being added to the custodial staff to allow for cleaning and trash removal throughout the weekdays," according to the Fall 2020 Plan. For more information, visit [tjc.edu/fall2020plan](http://tjc.edu/fall2020plan).

Holley Hall is located on the main TJC campus between the Rogers Student Center and Vaughn Library. Holley Hall houses 58 students with two person rooms. However, for quarantine, there will be one person per room. Each room shares a bathroom, two twin sized beds, two desks with chairs, two dressers and two closets.

Sanders explained how the college will determine if students need to go into quarantine.

"Each situation is carefully evaluated, and appropriate measures will be determined in consultation with Dean of Students Dr. Tampa Nannen and the college's protocols," Sanders said.

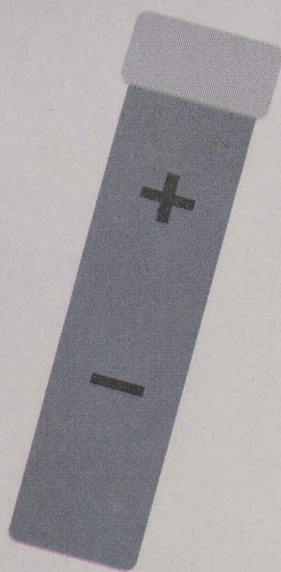
If a student is sick, has been exposed to the virus or is experiencing symptoms, they should notify Nannen as soon as possible. Students who also share a room with someone who has been exposed to or contracted COVID-19 would also need to relocate to Holley Hall.

"Any employee or student with known close contact (less than 6 feet for 15 or more minutes) to a person who is lab-confirmed to have COVID-19 must remain in quarantine until the end of the 14-day quarantine period from the last date of exposure," Sanders said.

For more information, visit the TJC Fall 2020 Plan at [tjc.edu/fall2020plan](http://tjc.edu/fall2020plan) or contact Tampa Nannen at [tnan@tjc.edu](mailto:tnan@tjc.edu).

## Coronavirus testing offered at various locations in Tyler

By Jessica King  
Staff Writer



Graphic by Michael Bald

Since the Coronavirus pandemic extended into Smith County earlier this year, several COVID-19 testing locations have opened in and around the city of Tyler.

UT Health East Texas will be providing COVID-19 testing to students who are experiencing any respiratory symptoms that may be related to COVID-19. The testing will be available at the UT Health East Texas Clinic on Fifth Street "dependent on a patient's symptoms and exposure risk," said Rebecca Sanders, the director of public affairs and media relations at TJC. In order for students to be tested, they must present a driver's license, Social Security card or passport. They also will be asked to fill out a brief registration form and medical history questionnaire.

"For students that have insurance, the reference

lab (CPL) will bill the insurance carrier or in cases where the student is uninsured, CPL will bill the Cares Act Fund," Sanders said. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act, or CARES Act, was passed by Congress on March 27 to provide direct and quick economic aid to the Americans negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition to COVID-19 testing, the UT Health East Texas Clinic offers visits for acute illness and/or to establish care as well as rapid flu and strep testing, X-rays and other diagnostic tests when necessary. For these services, students will be required to provide a proper ID, insurance information (if any) and fill out standard physician office paperwork and health questions. These visits will be billed to the student's insurance plan or, in cases where no insurance is in place, UT Health offers prompt pay discounts at the time of service for self-pay.

According to the Northeast Texas Public Health District, the Texas Division of Emergency Management is providing free COVID-19 testing for any non-symptomatic person from any county at three other locations in Tyler: Brookshire's Culinary Center from 9 a.m. to noon every Monday and Wednesday; Tyler Senior Center at 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Saturdays; and Louis Morgan Drugs Pharmacy No. 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mondays through Wednesdays. The type of test that will be provided is the polymerase chain reaction test. Anyone who is tested at any of these screening events will need to provide an up-to-date cell phone number, as the test results will only be distributed by text message or cell phone call.

Pre-registration for these free testing events is not required, however, wearing a face mask is required upon entry. Visit [nethealthcovid19.org/testing](http://nethealthcovid19.org/testing) for more information regarding the screenings.

## Registered to vote? Check voter status online, apply now

By Chris Crymes  
Contributing Writer

With the 2020 presidential election approaching, advertisements for campaigns are inescapable. Any voter will be hit with a barrage of ads by all candidates, but said voter isn't readily given information on how to vote.

"Many students here on campus have never even voted before because they don't know how," said Lauren Tyler, director of student life.

Usually Student Senate, TJC's student government body, holds voter registration meetings near election dates to help students start their democratic journey.

"We had over 65 students get registered at one meeting, which is quite a few in an hour," Tyler said about a meeting for 2018's midterm elections. However, with COVID-19 having made its way to the semester such meetings cannot

happen. This creates some problematic steps for those wanting to take part in the democratic process, but don't know where to start.

So, here is a rundown of local Smith County voter registration and early voting information.

Before filling out anything, potential voters can check their registration status by using the "Am I Registered" search function from [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov). Here, they can use either a Voter Unique Identifier, Texas driver's license number or personal county information to access voting status.

For those who are not registered, Oct. 5 marks the deadline for voter registration in Smith County.

Potential voters can register in person at the Smith County Elections Office, which is located downtown at 302 E. Ferguson in Tyler. Here, one can fill out the voter registration application and

to turn it in at the elections office.

The application can also be found at [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov), filled out beforehand, and mailed or dropped off at the Smith County Elections Administration Office at 302 E. Ferguson, Tyler, Texas 75702. For the application, a Texas driver's license, Texas personal I.D. or the last four digits of one's Social Security number is required along with a residence address and mailing address. This address section is important seeing as this determines the county in which one can vote.

If students are from out of town and living on campus, they must register their address here to ensure they will be able to vote here in Smith County rather than their hometown.

Once the application is turned in, wait for acceptance and head to a voting location on election day.

### Early Voting Dates and Times

|                   |                 |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Oct. 13 - Oct. 16 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| Oct. 19 - Oct. 23 | 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. |
| Oct. 24           | 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. |
| Oct. 25           | Noon - 5 p.m.   |
| Oct. 26 - Oct. 30 | 7 a.m. - 7 p.m. |

### Early Voting Locations

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Smith County HUB                | 304 E. Ferguson, Tyler, TX 75702           |
| Chapel Hill Fire Department     | 13801 County Rd 220, Tyler, TX 75707       |
| Noonday Community Center        | 16662 County Rd 196, Tyler, TX 75703       |
| Heritage Building               | 1900 Bellwood Rd, Tyler, TX 75701          |
| The Work Hub                    | 7922 S Broadway Ave, Tyler, TX 75703       |
| Lindale Kinzie Community Center | 912 Mt Sylvan St, Lindale, TX 75771        |
| TASCA Activity Center           | 10495 County Rd 2167, Whitehouse, TX 75791 |

A map of these locations along with the 35 voting locations for the election day on Nov. 3 can be found at [smith-county.com/government/departments/elections/current-election-information](http://smith-county.com/government/departments/elections/current-election-information).



## Textbooks: Students save through outside retailers

From Page 1

director of the department for all the sections. If there is one instructor who determines, 'I don't need the book,' we don't know. We are not given that information," Sustaire said. "If we were given that, it would be extremely helpful ... then we wouldn't have this return issue."

Some colleges, including TJC, allow students to utilize financial aid to pay for textbooks. However, this often requires students to rent or buy books at full price through the institution's bookstore, racking up costs and potentially inflating student loans. For students without financial aid or those wishing to minimize student debt, textbooks must be purchased with personal funds.

Despite the rising costs of textbooks, there are several resources available to help students save money. Amazon offers digital and used versions of textbooks for both temporary and permanent use. Chegg.com also offers used textbooks, as well as a platform for students to sell textbooks they no longer need.

| Textbook Name   | Bookstore Price                             | Amazon Price           | Chegg Price            |
|---|---|------------------------|------------------------|
| Biology: The Essentials (Hoefnagels)                          | \$114.75 (rent digital with Connect Access) | \$75 (buy)             | \$49.50 (rent digital) |
| America: A Narrative History (Shi)                            | \$55 (buy digital)                          | \$28.33 (rent digital) | \$20.49 (rent)         |
| American Democracy Now (Harrison)                             | \$81.25 (buy digital)                       | \$29.70 (rent digital) | \$49.50 (rent digital) |
| Successful College Writing (McWhorter)                        | \$112.75 (buy bundle)                       | \$37.83 (rent digital) | \$25.99 (rent)         |
| P.O.W.E.R. Learning: Foundations of Student Success (Feldman) | \$73.50 (rent digital with Connect Access)  | \$8.75 (rent digital)  | \$18.99 (rent)         |

\*lowest listed prices, editions may vary; subject to change

Graphic by Madison Heiser

## Coronavirus: In-class layouts change to prevent the spread

From Page 1

face-to-face classes during the summer, meaning less students were on campus. Summer term classrooms were assigned as one course per room per day to accommodate physical distancing. Sanders adds "safety precautions included face coverings, physical distancing or 50% capacity, hand sanitizer stations, classroom cleanings."

For the fall semester, 884 face-to-face courses are offered, which means more students are on campus. The only campus facility currently unavailable to students is the Ornelas Health and Physical Education Center.

A mixture of in-person, hybrid and online classes were offered in the summer and are offered this fall. TJC student Eric Olivares shared his thoughts about coming back to face-to-face classes.

"I was a little worried, but also excited," Olivares said. "Worried because not everyone is proactive about health and hygiene, which to me plays an important part in the prevention of any passable sickness."

Making the decision to reopen campus for face-to-face classes during a worldwide pandemic was something schools across the country had to make. For campuses that reopened, like TJC, hours of strategic planning went into making campus safe for reopening.

Pamela Rathbun, from marketing implementation at TJC, said to prepare for TJC's main campus to reopen, the TJC Fall Scheduling Committee "engaged in careful and comprehensive planning to prepare for the beginning of the new academic year."

The committee was established by executive leadership consisting of academic leaders, the office of technology services, faculty senate and the registrar's office.

"Their preparation was guided by two fundamental priorities: promoting the health and safety of the entire TJC campus community and ensuring an excellent academic experience for our students," Rathbun said.

According to TJC's fall 2020 plan, face coverings are required in the classroom, while 50% capacity or 6-feet physical distancing must be maintained at all times in classrooms and lab spaces. Rathbun explained these guidelines are in place with the exception of "2-3 labs where the students were already performing these learning outcomes in full PPE gear." PPE stands for "personal protective equipment," meaning masks, gloves and other gear used for protection against pathogens and hazardous materials.

TJC's website also mentions attendance will be taken each time classes meet, and there are mandatory seating charts. This is used by TJC officials to implement contact

tracing when a student or faculty member tests positive for COVID-19, preventing the need for an entire class to quarantine.

"The classrooms are given rules and guidelines, but for some classes, it's only causing the classes to be less productive or educational," Olivares said. "Hands-on classes are taking the biggest hit. I feel that until the situation gets better, everyone will have to adjust to the new normal."

Hand hygiene, masks, adequate supplies and maintaining a healthy environment by cleaning and disinfecting are among some of the considerations the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention gives institutions of higher education.

TJC has hand sanitizer stations available throughout campus. Also, the custodial staff performs enhanced cleaning in all buildings and instructional spaces every day and night to help mitigate the possible spread of any illness spread by bacteria/viruses.

"I have seen the cleaning staff do an amazing job – clearly more than normal," Olivares said. "The classroom honestly doesn't feel that much different besides the obvious mask on everyone."

For detailed information about TJC's protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on campus, including frequently asked questions, visit [tjc.edu/coronavirus](http://tjc.edu/coronavirus).

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Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

- DOWN**
- 1. Pirates on a plank?
  - 2. Black and white treat
  - 3. \*Papa or Mama
  - 4. Clown act
  - 5. Perennial garden flower
  - 6. Iris holder
  - 7. \*Babe or Wilbur
  - 8. Fraternity letter
  - 9. Politician's barrelful
  - 10. Curved molding
  - 11. Famous Australopithecus
  - 12. "\_\_\_ the wild rumpus begin!"
  - 15. Hertz offering
  - 20. Labanotation founder
  - 22. Doesn't mix well with water
  - 24. Wilma and Fred's hometown
  - 25. \*Dolly
  - 26. Eagle's nest
  - 27. \*Giant or Red
  - 29. \*Simba or Elsa
  - 31. Queen of Hearts' pastry
  - 32. Accustom
  - 33. Not so crazy
  - 34. \*Detroit mascot
  - 36. Not quite an adult
  - 38. Perfect houseplant spot
  - 42. Luau greeting
  - 45. S. E. Hinton's "\_\_\_ Fish"
  - 49. Chi precursor
  - 51. Place for a square
  - 54. Furry scarf
  - 56. What's in your e-wallet?
  - 57. Actress Perlman
  - 58. Runs, as on TV
  - 59. Radar flash
  - 60. Indian music
  - 61. Yorkshire river
  - 62. Lode deposits
  - 63. Supreme Court number
  - 64. Make a seam
  - 66. \*Tom or Sylvester
- ACROSS**
- 1. Spoil
  - 6. Delivery service
  - 9. Gallup's inquiry
  - 13. Madison Square Garden, e.g.
  - 14. One of the Tudors
  - 15. Pinkerton's gallery member
  - 16. Beneath, to a poet
  - 17. Bird-to-be
  - 18. Not slouching
  - 19. \*Koko or Digit
  - 21. \*George or Marcel
  - 23. Langley agency
  - 24. Can of worms
  - 25. Pine juice
  - 28. Up to the task
  - 30. Most recent
  - 35. Furnace output
  - 37. Gives a helping hand
  - 39. Veranda in Honolulu
  - 40. \*European sea eagle
  - 41. Waterwheel
  - 43. Ladder crosspiece
  - 44. \*Valued for its down
  - 46. Steelers's Chuck
  - 47. Genealogical plant?
  - 48. Treat for Dumbo
  - 50. Hoofbeat sound
  - 52. "To \_\_\_ is human"
  - 53. Jim Carrey's 1994 disguise
  - 55. Garden cultivator
  - 57. \*Roger or Peter
  - 60. \*Rocket or Rascal
  - 64. "Random" audience member
  - 65. Mozart's "L'\_\_\_ del Cairo"
  - 67. Resin-producing tree
  - 68. Like haunted house
  - 69. Time delay
  - 70. City in Germany
  - 71. Not a bee
  - 72. Pilot's deadline
  - 73. Not those

Crossword and Sudoku solutions will be online at thedrumbeat.com.



# NEW IN DC COMICS

By Michael Bald  
Entertainment Editor

With the pandemic having a mass effect on the entertainment industry, many studios and projects had to shut down or delay releases. However, studios are now starting to come back with long-awaited projects fans have been anticipating. The past couple weeks, DC Comics has had a plethora of new trailers for movies and video games.



Graphic by Michael Bald

## 'The Batman' trailer breakdown

"The Batman" is the new film in the upcoming surge of DC films not attached to the previously established DC Extended Universe, which includes titles such as "Batman v. Superman," "Man of Steel" and "Justice League." We finally get glimpses of the characters Gordon, Catwoman, Penguin and Batman. Many fans have already begun speculations over the film, including one fan supposedly having already solved a puzzle left by the Riddler's card in the trailer. There has been positive comments made about Colin Farrell's prosthetic makeup for the character Penguin. The character is a large person and many thought it was odd casting since Farrell is thin. Luckily, the makeup makes up for it.



Graphic by Michael Bald

## 'Gotham Knights' new gameplay

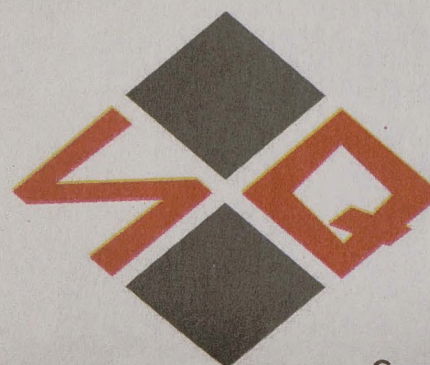
"Gotham Knights" is a new video game based on the side characters of the Batman storyline. Playable characters will include Batgirl, Red Hood, Nightwing and Robin. Not much is known about the story other than it takes place after Batman's supposed death and it's up to the side characters of Gotham to defend the city. Theories circling the internet suggest that the Court of Owls might be the main antagonists of the game due to their brief appearance. It is an open world, third-person role-playing game with a release set for some time in 2021. The game was developed by WB Games Montreal and will be available on Microsoft Windows, PlayStation 4, PlayStation 5, Xbox One and Xbox Series X.



Graphic by Michael Bald

## 'The Snyder Cut' is happening

"Justice League: Snyder Cut" is a four-part mini-series coming to HBO Max on Sept. 5, 2021. It is set to be the original cut of Justice League that Zack Snyder had envisioned for the 2017 film. Back when the movie was in its production phase, Snyder had lost his daughter in an accident, leaving executives at Warner Bros. to hire Joss Whedon to complete the project. Over the years, the change in directors caused a small uprising on the internet, creating the #ReleaseTheSnyderCut hashtag. It became so popular that even the actors in the movie such as Gal Godot and Jason Momoa published tweets using the now famous hashtag. Now, four years later, fans' wishes came true seeing what Snyder envisioned.



Graphic by Michael Bald

## 'The Suicide Squad' looks great

"The Suicide Squad," unlike "The Batman," will take place within the DCEU and will be a reboot of the 2016 "Suicide Squad." From the sneak peek alone it appears director James Gunn has put his heart and soul into the project, saying, "This has truly been the greatest, most exciting journey of my life making this film." Actor and actresses Jai Courtney, Margot Robbie and Viola Davis reprise their roles from the previous film, as everyone else in the cast has been recast or has become a new addition. Those include Idris Elba, John Cena and Taika Waititi. Director James Gunn was previously attached to the Marvel Cinematic Universe in his two "Guardians of the Galaxy" movies. Many fans are hoping for an R rating so he can go all out with his vision instead of a limiting PG-13 rating.

## Review: Christopher Nolan's 'Tenet' will stun audiences

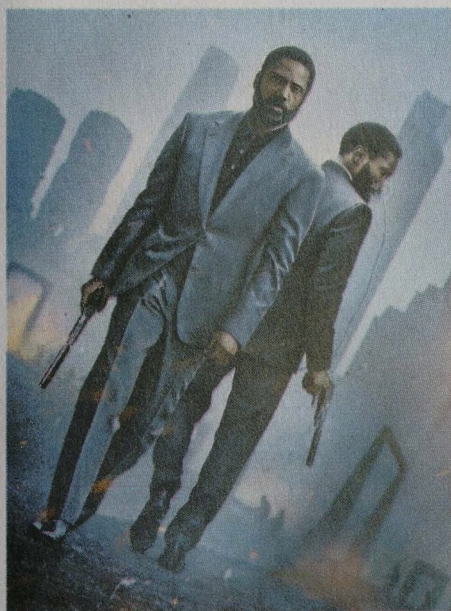


Photo courtesy of TheVerge.com

By Chris Crymes  
Contributing Writer

Has the COVID state of entertainment left you wanting? Are you tired of the small-scale reality shows like "90 Day Fiance" and wish for the return of the action blockbuster? Well, Christopher Nolan has ushered theaters back open with his action opus "Tenet." Summer blockbusters have been looked down upon in recent memory and for good reason.

Summer after summer has shown us superhero movie after superhero movie, sequel after sequel, leaving little room for an original large-scale film. Nolan, however, has fought against the entertainment trend of adaptations since "Memento" released in 2000 and with "Tenet" it seems he has practically perfected the thinking person's blockbuster.

While still being quite possibly his most flooring action achievement, "Tenet" does present some of Nolan's filmmaking quirks, including having characters walk through admittedly beautiful locations to explain the plot. Despite this, the inner workings of "Tenet" are so fast paced, intricate and baffling that I welcomed any information the enjoyable Robert Pattinson provided in such scenes. My only other negative for the film is Nolan's trademark deafening score, thrown in at any possible moment at maximum intensity.

On the plus side, John David Washington's character The Protagonist might not have a name, but that doesn't stop him from delivering a simultaneously fun and increasingly engaging performance. Pair those with Kenneth Branagh's perfectly villainous Andrei and his trapped wife, Kat, portrayed compellingly by Elizabeth

DeBicki, and you have a dynamite cast that never once feels anything outside of excellent.

The film may be two hours and 40 minutes, but you wouldn't be aware of that unless you timed it, because this plot explodes right at the start and does not let up. "Tenet" delivers heart-pounding action sequences one after another with purely divine practical effects. Not once does any of the "inversion" feel fake.

From reverse high-speed chases to hallway fights between people going forward and backward in time, Nolan's team floored me with every sequence. Early on, The Protagonist is told, "Don't think. Feel." This is my advice to anyone who wants the best theater experience of the year. Sit back, relax as much as you can and don't think, feel the experience that is "Tenet."

## Review: 'The New Mutants' is rubbish, not surprising

By Michael Bald  
Entertainment Editor

The "New Mutants," or The Little Engine that Couldn't, is the new film from the X-Men universe that's been delayed for three years due to behind-the-scenes drama and production nightmares. Now that it's out, it's safe to say this project should've been left on the shelf.

The film, while bad, was never painful to sit through. The small-scale story of teenagers stuck in a laboratory was much better than some giant, over-the-top, end-of-the-world scenario that plagues many mainstream comic book movies these days. So, in that sense,

the movie feels somewhat original in its premise. However, it is just that: a cool idea. Without the execution, you have a boring and predictable entity of a film.

The performances, while portrayed by insanely great talent, fell short by a mile. The main character portrayed by Blu Hunt was serviceable, but some of her delivery was cringe-inducing or hilariously bad. Anya Taylor-Joy, who is usually critically acclaimed for her performances in films like "The Witch" and "Split," seemed off with a Russian accent that faded in and out during scenes.

Maisie Williams, most famous for her portrayal of Arya Stark in "Game of Thrones," wasn't too bad in the film. Her performance

stood out from the rest, but even her character was never fleshed out past her one character trait, which was the shy and polite stereotype.

Another big issue with the film was its inability to keep a consistent tone. From the marketing and trailers, it appeared to be a small-scale psychological thriller. However, the film never had a suspenseful moment in it. Any moment of possible fright was abolished by bad visual effects.

It's a serviceable enough film, but nothing is memorable or engaging. If you are eagerly awaiting new releases, I would recommend waiting a bit longer for something better.



Graphic by Michael Bald



## TJC Tutoring Center open with new COVID-19 guidelines

By Emily Niebuhr  
Student Life Editor

Tyler Junior College's tutoring services is open with new COVID-19 procedures.

According to Danna Baggett, director of the Tutoring Services, COVID-19 procedures are in place at the TJC tutoring center such as physical distancing.

"They do have tables set up with plexiglass in between the student and tutor," Baggett said. "Also, they require the tutors to clean the tables and chairs they just used."

Additionally, drop-in tutoring procedures have changed. Instead, of dropping in in person an appointment is now required.

"In fact, we must limit the number of people that are in the center," Baggett said. "All our drop-in math and science tutoring will be done virtually through Zoom."

Tutoring services are free for the

students, and the tutoring center is in the library on the second floor.

"We offer in person and online tutoring, so whichever works best for their schedule and whatever they feel most comfortable with we have both those options available," Baggett said.

According to the TJC website, "the Apache Tutoring Center offers content clarification tutoring in a variety of subjects for appointments and drop-in, writing assistant for any essay or paper for any class, and learning support in reading comprehension and study skills."

Students can get tutored in more than one subject.

Students needing a tutor can call the center at (903) 510-2577, or visit the center located on the second floor of the library. Baggett said those visiting in person need to be "six feet away from the front desk or whoever is scheduling their appointment."

Online tutoring also is available

through Zoom. For this service, students need a computer compatible with Zoom. The tutor or proctor can observe and talk with students about their assignments.

Baggett said a webcam is not required, but "it is nice so the student can see the other person."

She added having a headset is important so the student and tutor can talk.

Interactive workshops lead by Nicole Hicks, a writing support specialist, and Tiffany Thompson, a learning support specialist, are available to students.

"They offer writing and study skills and reading workshops with all different times throughout the week all semester long with all different kinds of subjects," Baggett said. "In those workshops, they do activities, things and exercises to really solidify what they are learning in the workshop."

For more information about the workshops or tutoring services, visit [tjc.edu/tutoring](http://tjc.edu/tutoring).

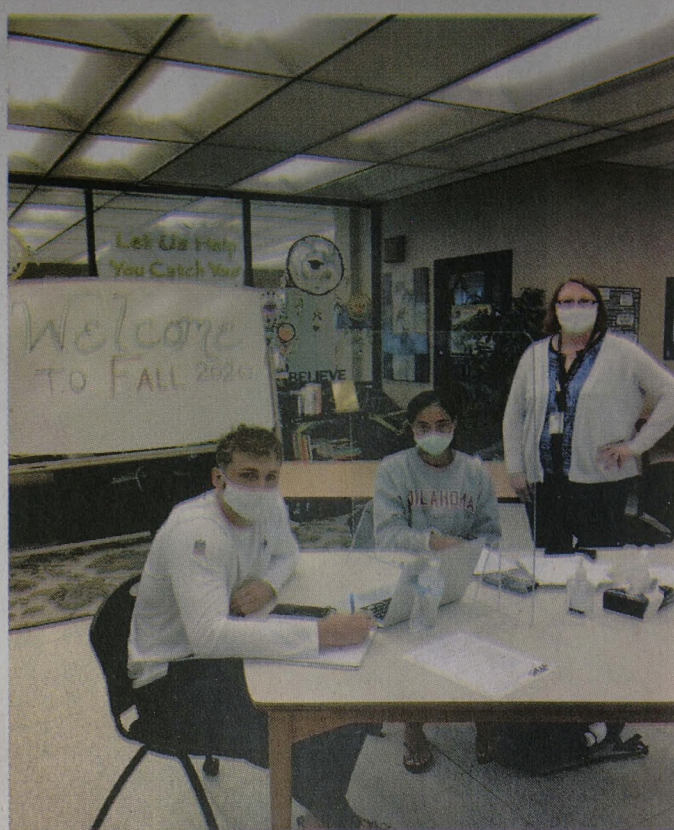


Photo by Emily Niebuhr

From left to right: Ethan Powell, a TJC student, works with tutor Sydney Kaai alongside Danna Baggett, director of Tutoring Services. The tutoring center is open under new COVID-19 guidelines.

## Student Senate moves online for meetings



Photo by Madison Heiser

TJC's Student Senate conducts its second virtual meeting of the fall semester. Organizations have been asked to attend the meetings via Zoom to accommodate COVID-19 procedures.

By Andrea Valdez  
Broadcast News Director

This fall semester to accommodate to COVID-19 restrictions, Student Senate meetings will be virtual through Zoom. The meetings will be held on Tuesdays at 4 p.m. through Zoom. Zoom meeting links will be on TJC's OrgSync page.

Student Senate is an organization on campus that oversees the student-led clubs and organizations at Tyler Junior College. Members represent the voice of the students, and students can attend meetings to voice their concerns as well as be representatives for their organizations.

For student organizations to be considered in good standing with the campus and continue their operations, they need to attend at least nine out of the 12 meetings for the semester.

"We have 12 meetings scheduled this semester, because they're weekly," said Student Senate sponsor, Lauren Tyler. "Typically, organizations can miss two meetings, but we will allow a grace period for three meetings."

Student Senate meetings use a structured format known as Robert's Rules to run meetings in an organized manner. Since the meetings are held through Zoom, features on the site will be used heavily. The chat feature will be utilized to take attendance of organizations at the meeting, and the raised hands feature will be used to vote or carry a motion.

Outside of attending Student Senate meetings, organizations would need to meet the requirements of going to committee meetings and or taking on community service hours.

"We are looking at instead

of so many committee hours or so many community service hours, we just want you to meet either or requirement. If it's seven hours, either get that in committee or community service," Tyler said.

Committees take place outside of Student Senate meetings throughout the week and students both in organizations or students who have something to discuss are welcome to attend. Committees are led by Student Senate officers and they will be formed after elections to select an officer for that committee.

Elections will be held on Sept. 15 - 16 through OrgSync. Students are encouraged to run by sending in a campaign video explaining their intent to run and winners will be announced through OrgSync.

For more information on Student Senate, visit [orgsync.tjc.edu/organization/student-senate](http://orgsync.tjc.edu/organization/student-senate).

## Upcoming Events

**Tuesday, Sept. 15**  
Student Senate Election 7:30 p.m.  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Apache Tutoring:  
Grammar and Punctuation  
5:30 p.m.

Virtual Trivia  
6 - 7:45 p.m.

**Monday, Sept. 21**  
Classes begin for Fall 12-Week  
Apache Tutoring - MLA Style  
5:30 p.m.

**Wednesday, Sept. 16**  
Student Senate Election  
9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Tuesday, Sept. 22**  
Academic Success  
Coaching Information Session  
5 p.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 17**  
TJC Founders Day  
9:17 a.m.

Apache Tutoring:  
Grammar and Punctuation  
2:30 p.m.

Apache Tutoring: MLA Style  
5:30 p.m.

International Game Developers Association  
General meeting  
6 p.m.

Academic Success  
Coaching Information Session  
4 p.m.

Bingo/ Loteria Night  
5 - 7 p.m.

**Friday, Sept. 18**  
Academic Success  
Coaching Information Session  
11 a.m.

**Thursday, Sept. 24**  
Apache Tutoring: MLA Style  
2:30 p.m.

*\*Events subject to change.*

## Overflow offers fellowship on college campuses

By Jessica King  
Staff Writer

Every organization on campus is having to adapt to a new way of interacting this semester, and Overflow is no exception. Overflow is a college ministry organization that is a combination of two churches, Friendly Baptist Church and Central Tyler, who hold a college worship service at 7 p.m. every Tuesday at Tyler Junior College and the University of Texas at Tyler.

In regards to TJC's COVID-19 procedures, Overflow worship services will happen mostly on UT Tyler's campus in the University Center Theater. Steve Lyles, the executive pastor at Friendly Baptist Church and leader of Overflow, said "we're excited to provide this opportunity for students to connect with God, fellowship with fellow believers in Christ, and celebrate what it means to be a part of the family of God."

In compliance with UT Tyler's COVID-19

precautionary procedures, all students and visitors are required to wear a face mask to all on-campus events.

In addition to Tuesday night worship services, Overflow meets for small group Bible study at 9 a.m. every Sunday at Friendly Baptist Church and at 6 p.m. where they have a short devotional, dinner and games.

More Overflow events this semester include a swim fellowship on Sunday, Sept. 13, and Mud Bowl on Oct. 17.

Andrew Arrazate, the college director at Friendly Baptist Church, leader and tech director of Overflow, believes "God is going to move in a big way this semester." Arrazate added he is eager to see "how lives are changed by our Heavenly Father."

For more information concerning upcoming events, contact Arrazate at [andrew@friendlybaptistchurch.org](mailto:andrew@friendlybaptistchurch.org).

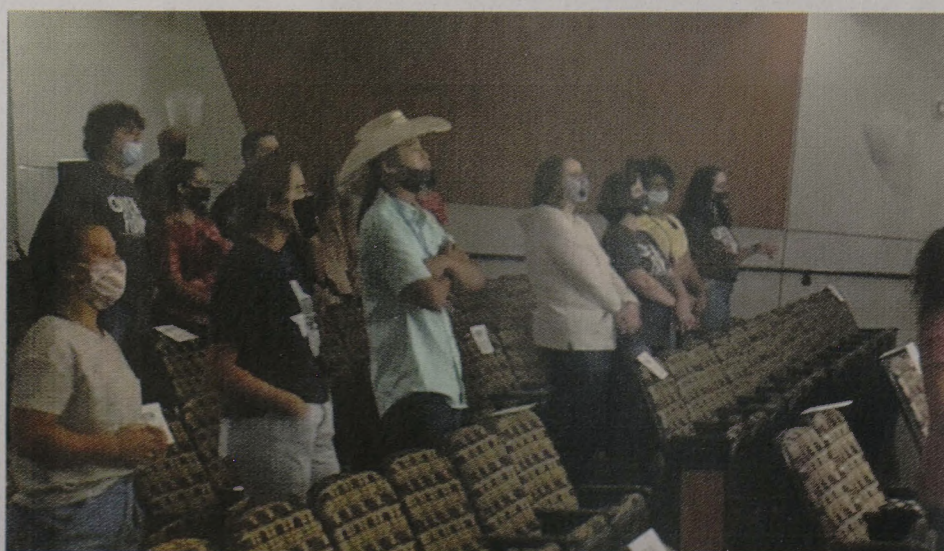


Photo by Jessica King

Students gather for worship service at the UT Tyler University Center. Two future services will be held at TJC's football field on Sept. 29 and Nov. 10.



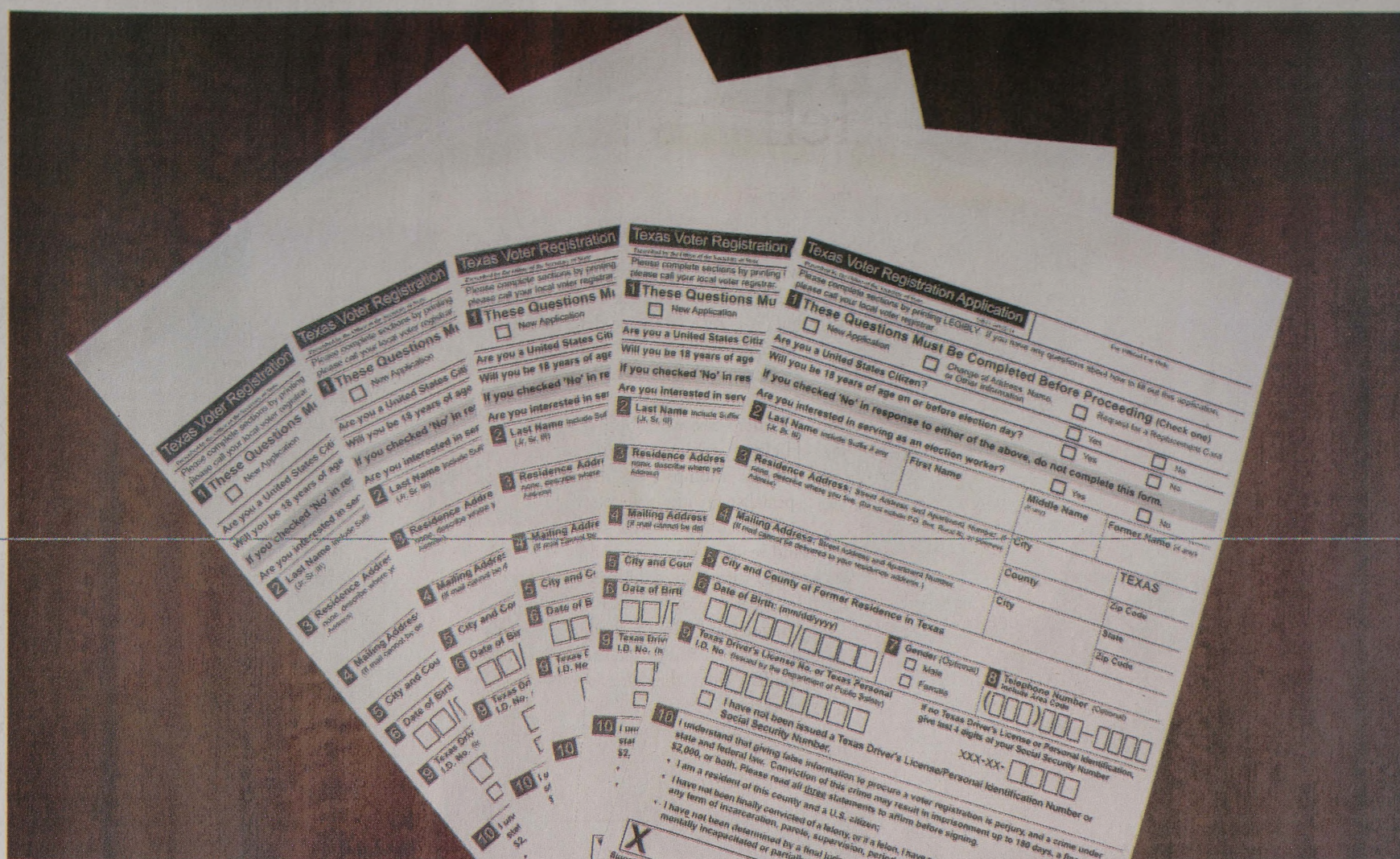
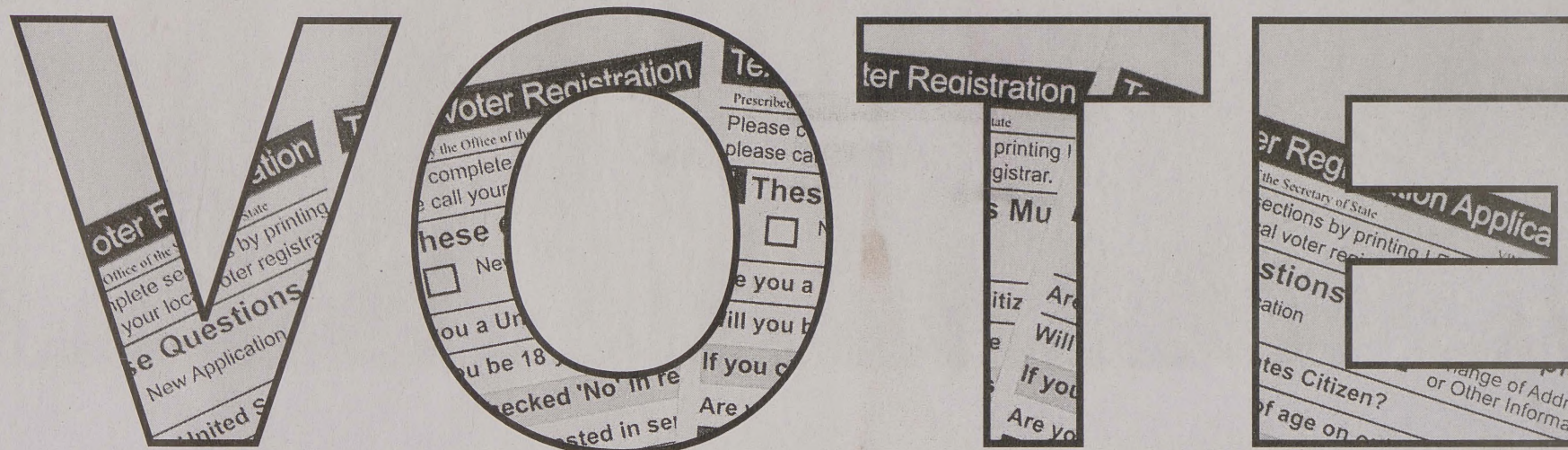


Photo by Madison Heiser

Texas voter registration applications can be found outside The DrumBeat newsroom located in Jenkins Building, Room 1114B.



## Column: 2020 election calls for young voters

By Madison Heiser  
Editor-in-Chief

As Americans' party affiliations and ideologies become increasingly polarized as the next presidential election approaches, voting (specifically among younger citizens) has become even more essential to preserve the functionality of the U.S.' political system.

According to a June 2020 study by the Pew Research Center, the recent COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the growing ideological divide between America's two major political parties. Republicans and democrats are fiercely divided in regard to the U.S. government's handling of the Coronavirus concerns, creating a point of contention sure to be pivotal in the results of the upcoming general election in November.

COVID-19 is only one of a series of issues



in recent years that has contributed to a more polarized American political demographic.

One generation seemingly less affected by party polarization is the American youth. According to a 2018 study from Tufts University, only 56% of citizens aged 18-24 choose to identify with a political party. Additionally, those identifying as independent make up approximately one third of that demographic, even trumping those who identify as republican by more than 10%.

Young Americans are not only becoming less politically divided, but they're showing up to the polls in greater numbers. The U.S. Census Bureau reported a nearly 16% increase in youth voter turnout between the 2014 and 2018 midterm elections.

Considering 18 to 24-year-olds make up approximately one tenth of the U.S.

population, youth voters have the potential to make an enormous impact on the 2020 presidential election results – but only if they keep showing up to vote.

This year also marks the 100th anniversary of the ratification of the 18th Amendment, which gave women the right to vote in the U.S. This may serve to inspire American women, both young and old, to march to the polls once again in an effort to seek further progression of American society out of the marked disaster it has seemed to become in the past several months.

With the push to vote comes a push to stay educated about the U.S.' current political affairs, as well as which candidates best support each voter's hopes for the future of the country. Staying informed and determining which candidate to vote for does not have to be difficult; there are countless resources available to help streamline the process and increase voter turnout among all eligible Americans.

Websites such as isidewith.com help citizens determine which candidates' platforms best fit their ideologies, making the voting decision less harrowing and more easily accessible for everyone. Every U.S. citizen who is willing and able should make sure they are registered to vote in the upcoming election. Citizens can check their voter registration status at [vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/](http://vote.org/am-i-registered-to-vote/).

The 2020 presidential election presents a unique opportunity for the youth voters of America to showcase their strength in both numbers and political passion.

In an era racked with social turmoil, racial divides and employment complications, many young Americans are angry. They are tired of politicians bent on bringing each other down instead of lifting the nation up. They want to incite change – not only for a better present, but for a better future, as well. The only way to make that happen is to exercise political participation, to carry out one of America's most cherished, universal liberties: vote.

## Column: Self-help industry scams with false promises

By Chris Swann  
Photographer

It is human nature to constantly seek change. Whether that be losing weight, improving your self-confidence or bettering your romantic relationships, most people continually strive to improve themselves. But changing often requires us to alter our psychological habits and the way we look and interact with the world.

Sometimes this self-improvement process can be easier said than done. We've created habits for ourselves since we were children, and they are etched into our psyche. Self-help comes into play when we want to adapt these habits.

Self-help presents us with ideas on how to modify the way we look and how we see the world around us. It's a multi-billion dollar a year industry filled with gurus, authors and life coaches who capitalize off of self-conscious consumers who now believe their happiness can be controlled by someone else.

The thing is, I believe our happiness can't be controlled by someone else. Only we have



the power to create our own true happiness. Simply reading a book or watching a seminar about methods to make our lives better sounds pretty good, doesn't it? It's less work you have to do, and everything is laid out for you in a few hundred pages or words. All you have to do is take the tools you've been given — for a small price, of course — and run with it. Except, happiness is something that cannot be bought.

It all starts at the first self-help seminar or book. You turn the last page or walk out the convention center with a burst of motivation and satisfaction after soaking in loads of promising information. Your brain releases dopamine as you begin your search for the next video, book or speaker. The process repeats itself as many times as you let it. And now, you are in the grasp of the self-help industry as you're looking to consume more.

But all the information they give you across the board is largely vague. It's why you constantly search for more. These methods prime you to think you're only one more step away from finding the answer to your bliss. Unfortunately, the final solution never

presents itself. Yet, the constant surge of dopamine after you close a book makes you think you're getting closer each time. When in reality, nothing has changed. This is the illusion of progress these mediums give you. It's why millions of people have fallen into this cycle and cannot get out. It's why the industry makes roughly \$10 billion yearly, according to Psychology Today.

In the popular book "The Subtle Art of Not Giving a F\*ck" by Mark Manson, he mentions how self-help actually has the opposite effect on our psyche. We're setting ourselves up for disappointment at square one by setting unrealistic expectations we can never reach. Most of these mediums actually fixate on the things we lack. They hone in on what we've already preconceived to be the things we lack, or our failures and shortcomings.

We want to learn to be more self-confident because we believe we are already lacking in self-confidence. We follow relationship/dating advice because we believe we are unattractive or undesirable. This fixation on the positive side of things, ironically, is a reminder of the perceived negative sides of ourselves.

This is what philosopher Alan Watts refers to as "The Backwards Law," which is the desire for a more positive experience in

itself is a negative experience. Paradoxically, the desire for a more negative experience is a positive experience. In simpler terms, this means the more you pursue feeling better, the less satisfied you'll become. The most negative experiences in our lives usually are followed by greatest amounts of change. It's just like going to the gym and feeling the burning sensation in your muscles after an intense workout. It means you're getting stronger. The pain in true confrontation is what derives deeper connections and real growth in relationships, and so on.

True happiness comes naturally, I believe. People who are 100% happy don't have to constantly tell themselves they are happy. They simply are. It's a matter of accepting your situation and yourself for who you are — your shortcomings and weaknesses. It's about accepting those rough, jagged edges that make you human.

Existential Philosopher Albert Camus once said "You will never be happy if you continue to search for what happiness consists of. You will never live if you are looking for the meaning of life." Accepting yourself is the only way to facilitate real growth in your life and in the end, happiness is something that's easier to achieve.



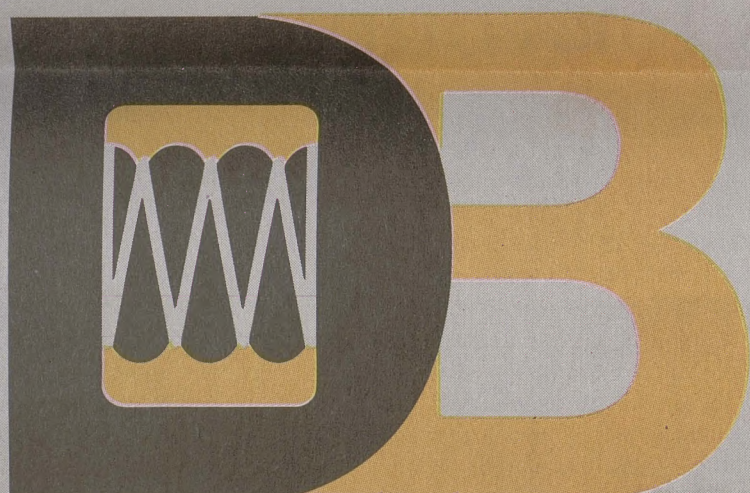
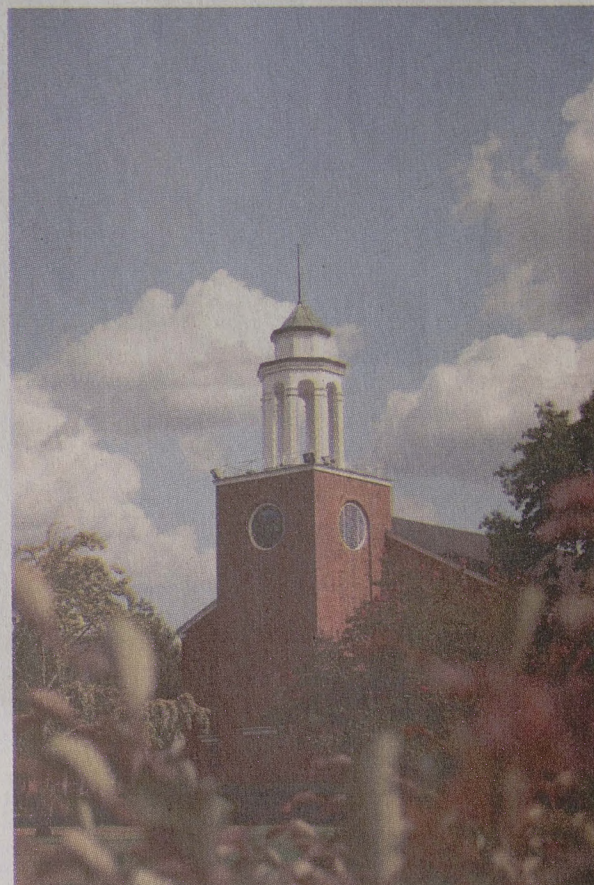
## Campus Candida

**Photos by Chris Swann**

Right: Construction continues on the new Rogers Palmer Performing Arts Center.

Below: The sun shines over Jenkins Hall and the front lawn.

Bottom right: On a clear day, Ramey Tower stands tall over campus.



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